

Waste Collection Companies Meeting January 6, 2005

Companies with Attendees: American Disposal, Reston Trash, AAA, Virginia Trash, McLean Trash, Waste Management, STI Rolloff, New Vision, Champion Services

County staff: Joyce Doughty, Jeff Smithberger, Randy Hancock, John Childress, Linda Boone, Ed Harris, Art Culbertson, Pamela Gratton, Dynita Glenn, Christina Lunsford

Guests: Clark Tyler (Solid Waste Task Force)

The meeting began at 5:05 p.m.

Introductions/Welcome

Joyce welcomed everyone.

Announcements/Updates

Hauler Newsletter is sent electronically to those collection companies that email addresses on file with the Division of Solid Waste. The newsletter is also sent with the invoices monthly. The newsletter contains lots of good information about events, safety tips, procedure changes at the disposal facilities, and other information. Companies are encouraged to review the newsletter and offer suggestions to improve the content. County staff want to ensure that communication remains open between the Division and our customers (the collection companies).

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) program is a separate program from the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program. The county can collect and store HHW from households for a period of time. This is not possible for business hazardous materials, so businesses need to participate in the new CESQG program. The program allows businesses to dispose of small quantities of hazardous materials by paying the county to dispose of the materials at periodic events. The program saves businesses money because the county has been able to negotiate special disposal rates for the hazardous materials. County staff asked the collectors to notify their customers of the opportunity to dispose of small amounts of hazardous wastes during the upcoming **3 CESQG events in 2005 at the I-66 Citizens**

Disposal Facility on

- **April 13**
- **July 27**
- **October 5.**

NOTE: Residents can take fluorescent lights to the HHW sites I-66 and I-95 facilities. Businesses cannot use the HHW program but can dispose of fluorescent lights as part of the CESQG events.

Recycling Rate Report Form has been mailed. The completed report is due to the Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling by March 1, 2005.

Business Recycling Awards are available. Applications for the spring awards are available on the county's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/cm-awardintro.htm>. Collectors are encouraged to nominate themselves or one of their customers who has a strong recycling program. If there are questions, please contact Pamela Gratton at 703-324-5230.

Correction to last meeting notes. Office Depot is no longer taking electronics waste.

Upcoming electronics recycling events are April 9th at Chantilly High School and April 23rd at the Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale.

Restore, the new reuse facility operated by Habitat for Humanity and located at 7770-A Richmond Highway in Alexandria, is asking for donations of building materials for reuse instead of disposing of the materials. They will pick up new and demolition building materials and give a tax receipt for the donation. The phone number of Restore is **703-360-6700**.

Update on Solid Waste Task Force Process

The task force is beginning to prepare the narrative of the report for the SWTF. The information about meetings/minutes is maintained on the county's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/swtf. Minutes of the November 30 meeting were distributed. Any collector who would like to be involved with the SWTF can participate by attending an upcoming meeting at the Government Center: January 25, February 22, March 29, or April 26 or by contacting the SWTF at trashmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Input from Collectors to SWTF

Emergency Operations—John Hasle discussed the role and expectations of collectors for emergency operations and weather events. The SWTF would like to work with the collectors to craft a policy statement around how the collectors could support emergency operations in cooperation with county staff.

Collectors were concerned about how brush is defined? Collectors stated they had overextended their capabilities to deal with large amounts of brush during Hurricane Isabel and other weather events. Collectors did not want to continue doing “tree work.” It was suggested that homeowners use their insurance to pay for tree disposal services and not ask the collectors to subsidize them. Most HOAs have grounds maintenance companies who do their tree services.

How could the collectors support county initiated programs if there is an emergency? Collectors could help the county with storm cleanup, provided there was a contract or way to get paid for the services. Materials could include MSW, debris, and brush, depending on the emergency. Collectors want to be paid for extra services they might provide.

Joyce indicated that the county has an emergency alert distribution list available if collectors would like to be notified about what the county is doing for weather events. This text message system could alert collectors when additional services and support are needed and the collectors could decide if they have the capacity to assist (and be compensated).

Most collectors are already committed to the extra clean up of solid waste generated by their customers when there are power outages or storms. If the collectors had any extra capability, they could come in after regular work hours to help with other areas of the county, if the disposal facilities could be kept open later hours.

County staff asked if there was interest from the collectors in participating in the emergency alert system. Interested collectors should contact Art Culbertson at 703-324-5230 to register for the alert system.

Service level agreements

Conrad Mehan, Potomac Disposal Services, has been working with several collectors to define a level of customer service that collectors could voluntarily subscribe to. However, he was unable to attend the meeting, so the discussion of this initiative was deferred to another meeting. County staff offered to get info to collectors when it is available.

Sanitary Districts Announcements

Twelve groups have asked for and been sent sanitary district petitions. The requests were from Springfield, Mount Vernon, and Mason districts. Copies of the list of active petition requests were distributed, see attachment 1. The deadline is February 1, 2005, for completed petitions, if the service is to begin on July 1, 2005.

Business Recycling Awards

Previously discussed by Pamela. The form is on website and this is a nice opportunity to get free publicity for programs that are done well.

Recycling Program Strategies

- Additional materials will be collected curbside (plastic bottles , mixed paper and flattened cardboard). The SWTF suggested the new materials be introduced all at one time with the county creating publicity about the startup. The implementation schedule would start on July 1, 2005. A short survey was distributed to ask collectors about what materials they are already collecting for recycling. Collectors completed the survey.

- The county anticipates needing a year to fully implement the new materials. County staff has talked with recyclers about being able to handle the increased amount of materials and has been assured that the markets have capacity.

- Single stream recycling is being implemented by Waste Management.

Q: Would the county use the Transfer Station for recyclables transfer if no in-county facility is available?

A: The county would consider if needed to sustain an effective recycling program.

- Loudoun County has implemented recycling and much of that material is coming to Fairfax County recyclers now.

Q: Is there a possibility of changing the other materials that are recycled? What about doing away with glass?

A: The county needs to consider this further. County staff will get an estimate of how much glass comprises the recycling materials. Last year we recycled 10,000 tons of glass throughout Fairfax County. That is a meager amount. Everyone wants recycling to work in the county.

- Lowered business thresholds—county staff is developing a plan to include discussions with businesses about how to increase business recycling. There are 3 goals: increase amounts of recyclables; converse with businesses about how to recycle CDD; and reduce potential constituents of concern from the waste stream by recycling more electronics, NiCad batteries and fluorescent bulbs. This new recycling program will take a couple of years to fully implement.

- **ServiceSource** is the current business that recycles electronics daily. Service Source is located at 6295 Edsall Road, Suite 175, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 and the phone number is **(703)461-6143**.

Operational Items

Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste must be collected separately from trash April 1 through December 23. The county does not require source separation of leaves and grass the rest of the year. **Brush is collected separately from trash yearround.**

Q: What is brush?

A: The SWTF has defined brush as any wood 6 inches in diameter, bundled in 4 foot lengths.

Q: Collectors asked about eliminating summer collection of yard waste and going to seasonal collection only?

A: The county and the Solid Waste Task Force (SWTF) have not agreed to this because of the need to maintain the recycling rate as well as keep sufficient capacity at the E/RRF for increasing amounts of solid waste.

Bags and cans for collection

The service level agreement being developed by collectors purportedly speaks to requiring paper bags for collection of yard waste. However at this time, the county has not changed the collection requirements and will wait for further discussions with collectors and the SWTF before changing any requirements.

Changes to Chapter 109 (Draft amendments sent by mail to collectors)

County staff want to do a complete rewrite of the Code in a year. Currently, staff is proposing technical changes that need to be made now. These changes were distributed to attendees and will be sent to the Board of Supervisors on January 10 requesting authority to advertise a Public Hearing on the changes. (NOTE: The Board of Supervisors authorized a Public Hearing on the proposed Chapter 109 changes to be held on February 7, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. in the Board Auditorium at the Government Center.

The technical changes to Chapter 109 were reviewed by the attendees:

- New definition of a collector
- Solid waste permit versus business license
- Associated SW management facility
- Procurement of recycled products
- Zip code requirement for area served
- Zoning and building authorization—businesses to be properly zoned
- Give policy with regard to weather events or make up policies.
- Financial assurance is required for collection companies. Bonding may not be feasible but alternative arrangements can be made.
- Storage in plastic bags is allowed. Disposal in plastic is approved.
- Set out of trash cans guidance is changed. Joan Carr relayed concern from Supervisor Kauffman about deleting the requirement. Joyce will talk with the Lee District Supervisor.
- Collectors will be able to certify they are in compliance with the requirements
- Late payment clarifications
- Technical clarifications pages 24, 30, 32
- Permitting of disposal facility

County staff consciously did not change page 19 Section 109-5-2. but will consider taking out words "of any size" on page 19.

A collector said the issue should be about getting yard waste out of containers entirely not about the kind of containers to use (paper versus plastic bags).

Q: Will county staff be considering changes throughout the year?

A: Yes, since the county plans to do a major rewrite early next year.

If collectors have any concerns or what more information about these technical changes to Chapter 109, please contact At Culbertson at 703-324-5230.

Collector Issues

Q: Is there any possibility of starting residential collections at 4:00 a.m.?

A: Earlier collections in residential areas probably will not be approved. A company just asked for that and was disapproved.

Q: Most customers pay quarterly. When a customer terminates service, do they forfeit the prepaid money? Some companies are not refunding the money.

A: That is really a customer contract issue, not a county code issue.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 7, 2005 at 5:00 pm. in the Government Center Room 9-10